

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 307485
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 PPT-01 /011 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:JSBLODGETT:LAR

APPROVED BY AF/C:TRBUCHANAN

----- 074123 /74-62

R 202300Z DEC 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

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FROM AF/C BLODGETT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, US, GB

SUBJECT: VISA REQUESTS

REFS: A) STATE 296228; B) LIBREVILLE 2613

1. GABONESE AMBASSADOR KOMBILA NOW INDICATES HE PREPARED TO ISSUE TOURIST VISA TO ANY AMERICAN TOURIST, WITHOUT RPT WITHOUT REQUIRING PERMISSION FROM GOG, PROVIDED THAT VISA REQUEST IS SUPPORTED BY AF/C. AS KOMBILA PUTS IT, QUOTE THERE WILL BE NO NEED TO BOTHER AMERICAN EMBASSY LIBREVILLE ABOUT SUCH QUESTIONS IN FUTURE UNQUOTE. WE HAVE EVERY REASON BELIEVE KOMBILA WILL KEEP HIS PROMISE AND PRESUME NEW FLEXIBILITY DUE AT LEAST IN PART TO EMBASSY'S EFFORTS REPORTED REF (B). FOR THAT MANY THANKS.

2. AF/C IS WRITING TO GABONESE EMBASSY ON DECEMBER 21 TO SUPPORT VISA APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY KRAMERS, ELISABETH TAYLOR, AND JOHN SCUDDER (LATTER TWO NOW PLAN TO ARRIVE
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LIBREVILLE LATE JANUARY AND WILL NOT RPT NOT BE ACCOMPANIED BY VONNEGUT AND KREMENTZ AS EARLIER PLANNED). UNDERSTAND TUTTLES ALREADY RECEIVED VISAS LAST WEEK. THAT SHOULD TAKE CARE OF ALL VISA PROBLEMS FOR TIME BEING.

3. NEW GABONESE FLEXIBILITY RE TOURIST VISAS OBVIOUSLY

REFLECTS GOG DESIRE DEVELOP CLOSER COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S., AND MAY PARTLY REFLECT KOMBILA'S OWN ACCOMMODATING NATURE. NEVERTHELESS, BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO USE OUR NEW-FOUND DISCRETION SPARINGLY TO AVOID PLACING UNDUE STRAIN ON GOG GOODWILL.
KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, VISA REGULATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cahillha
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE307485
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JSBLODGETT:LAR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760467-0798
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761227/aaaaaxak.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 296228, 76 LIBREVILLE 2613
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cahillha
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUL 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <25 OCT 2004 by cahillha>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISA REQUESTS
TAGS: CASC, CVIS, US, GB, (KOMBILA), (KRAMER, MAURICE), (TAYLOR, ELIZABETH), (SCUDDER, JOHN)
To: LIBREVILLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006